

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 1, 2000, with claims 1-24. Claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 13 and 21 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,597,389 (hereinafter “Tanaka”).

Claims 4-6 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka alone or in view of allegedly admitted prior art or U.S. Patent No. 6,191,814 (hereinafter “Elberbaum”).

Claims 8-11 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In this response, Applicants respectfully traverse the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

With regard to the §102(e) rejection, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Eight Edition, August 2001, §2131, specifies that a given claim is anticipated “only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference,” citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, MPEP §2131 indicates that the cited reference must show the “identical invention . . . in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim,” citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish anticipation of claims 1-3, 7 and 21-24 by Tanaka.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an apparatus comprising a basic device and an accessory device. The claim specifies that the basic device includes a docking interface, and that the accessory device couples to the docking interface of the basic device. The claim further specifies that a power supply unit of the accessory device supplies electrical energy to a control processor of the accessory device in response to a control signal received from the basic device, with the control signal being indicative of whether or not an application which requires use of the accessory device is currently running on the basic device.

In an illustrative embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the basic device is a personal digital assistant (PDA) 10 having a docking interface 16, and the accessory device is a digital camera 18 having a corresponding mating interface 20. The digital camera 18 couples to the docking interface 16 of the PDA 10 as illustrated in FIG. 2. See the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 17-28. The digital camera 18 is powered on using a control signal that is indicative of whether or not an imaging application program is running on the PDA 10. See the specification at, for example, page 3, line 29, to page 4, line 2, and page 5, lines 3-9. An advantage of this arrangement is that the digital camera 18 is powered up only when needed, and without manual intervention of the user, so as to provide improved conservation of power. See the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 26-28.

In formulating the §102(e) rejection, the Examiner argues with reference to FIG. 1 of Tanaka that the basic device of claim 1 is met by a given video reception terminal station 18 and the accessory device of claim 1 is met by a combination of a given camera control device 14 and a given video camera 16. Further, the Examiner argues that the recited docking interface of the basic device of claim 1 is met by the network interface 142 of the video reception terminal station 18 as shown in FIG. 3 of Tanaka. See the Office Action at page 2, last paragraph, to page 3, first paragraph. However, as noted above, the claim calls for the basic device to include a docking interface, and for the accessory device to couple to the docking interface of the basic device. It is respectfully submitted that the network interface 142 as shown in FIG. 3 of Tanaka is not a docking interface of the type recited in the claim. The network interface 142 interfaces the video reception terminal station 18 with a network 10, as indicated in FIG. 1. A corresponding video transmission terminal station 12 associated with camera control device 14 and video camera 16 includes a network interface 42 that interfaces the station 12 with the network 10, as shown in FIG. 2. Thus, there is no docking of a combination of device 14 and camera 16 with the reception terminal station 18 in the Tanaka reference. The Examiner appears to be in effect reading the word docking out of claim 1, and is thereby failing to give patentable weight to each and every claim limitation.

As noted above, claim 1 further specifies that the control signal that controls the power supply of the accessory device is indicative of whether or not an application which requires use of the accessory device is currently running on the basic device. In the Tanaka reference, a control signal from terminal station 18 to power on a camera 16 does not provide such an indication. There is no direct correspondence between the Tanaka camera power-on control signal and any particular application running on terminal station 18. Instead, the camera is apparently turned on at will without regard to what applications are running on terminal station 18. See Tanaka at, for example, column 7, lines 16-20. Thus, Tanaka fails to provide the automatic power conservation advantages that are provided by the claimed arrangement.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Tanaka fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2, 3 and 7 are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with regard to claim 1.

Independent claim 21 includes limitations relating to an accessory device having a power supply unit and a control processor. The power supply unit of the accessory device is activated in response to a first control signal from a basic device to supply electrical power from the power supply unit to the control processor of the accessory device. A second control signal is generated with the control processor of the accessory device and supplied to the power supply unit. The operation of the power supply unit is latched in response to the second control signal to maintain the supply of electrical power from the power supply unit to the control processor regardless of the state of the first control signal. It is important to note that it is the control processor of the accessory device that generates the second control signal in claim 21.

In formulating the §102(e) rejection of claim 21, the Examiner again argues that the basic device of claim 21 is met by a given video reception terminal station 18 and the accessory device of claim 21 is met by a combination of a given camera control device 14 and a given video camera 16. The Examiner further argues that the second control signal recited in claim 21 is met by the “override shut-off” arrangement described in column 11, line 55, to column 13, line 4, of Tanaka. See the Office Action at page 4, last paragraph, to page 5, first paragraph. However, it is

clearly stated at column 12, lines 13-21, of Tanaka that it is the camera control server 56 which controls this “override shut-off” operation. As is readily seen from FIG. 4, the camera control server 56 is an element of the video transmission terminal station 12, and is thus not part of the alleged accessory device 14, 16 identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, the relied-upon arrangements of Tanaka fail to teach or suggest the claimed step of generating a second control signal with a control processor of an accessory device.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Tanaka fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 21.

Dependent claims 22-24 are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with regard to claim 21.

With regard to the §103(a) rejections, Applicants respectfully traverse on the ground that the relied-upon references fail to meet each and every limitation of the claims at issue. For example, independent claim 13 calls for a digital camera accessory device that comprises a docking interface. The Examiner in formulating the §103(a) rejection over Tanaka argues that network interface 142 of station 18 in Tanaka constitutes a docking interface of the type recited. Applicants respectfully disagree for reasons similar to those provided above in the context of claim 1. A network interface of the type disclosed in Tanaka is not believed to anticipate the recited docking interface. Moreover, Applicants note that the discussion provided by the Examiner at page 7, second paragraph, of the Office Action relies on network interface 142 of the station 18, and the Examiner identifies station 18 as corresponding to a basic device. In claim 13, the recited docking interface is an element of the digital camera accessory device, and not of a basic device.

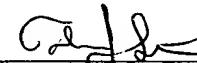
The allegedly admitted prior art and the Elberbaum reference fail to supplement the fundamental deficiencies of Tanaka as applied to independent claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, the §103(a) rejections of claims 4-6 and 12-20 are believed to be improper, and should be withdrawn.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call to attend to these matters.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

As indicated previously, a Notice of Appeal is submitted concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Strouse
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 27,370

TJS:pw
Telephone: (585) 477-2728
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646